



**JEFFERSON COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

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October 12, 2011

To: Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners
From: Jefferson County Planning Commission
Subject: Food Resiliency and Land Use in Jefferson County

Gentlemen,

On March 2, 2011 the presentation on "Farms and Food Security" in Jefferson County by L. Katherine Baril was one of the best attended Planning Commission (PC) meetings and it promoted a remarkable attitude of unity within the audience. That attitude, of shared purpose, has continued at each subsequent PC meeting and has brought forth discussion on several aspects of this subject. Some of them are:

- the food system of Jefferson County is influenced by elements of the Jefferson County Code and areas of land use planning that include housing, transportation and infrastructure development
- within the Community Vision Statements of the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan are the support and encouragement of economic opportunities and the protection and conservation of agricultural resource lands
- a fuller understanding of our food system can provide data to support priorities of the 2010 Jefferson County Strategic Plan for strengthening the efficiency and quality of a county-wide food security program
- assuring a robust local food system is essential for emergency preparedness and important for our day-to-day local self-reliance

- the American Planning Association Board of Directors, on April 15, 2007, adopted a Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning that recommended the inclusion of food policies in local and regional plans; the American Public Health Association, on November 6, 2007, adopted a policy entitled "Toward a Healthy, Sustainable Food System", recommending a food system approach as key to better human health and environmental quality; and, in June of 2010, the American Dietetic Association, American Nurses Association, American Planning Association and American Public Health Association initiated a collaborative process to develop a set of shared food system principles and those principles have been published as "Principles of a Healthy, Sustainable Food System"
- food policy councils have been established in more than one hundred fifty (150) cities and regions throughout the United States for developing policy guidance in support of their communities' interest in food system economy and security

The Planning Commission, as part of its periodic assessment, is required to review land use and if necessary recommend revisions to the Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations prepared under the provisions of the Growth Management Act using the process described in Jefferson County Code 18.45.050(4).

Building on the extensive interactions with the public since March 2011, the Planning Commission will continue to support and seek additional input from citizen-led collaborations. The Planning Commission sees this as a significant first step towards establishing a citizen-led Jefferson County Food Policy Council as a resource for proposals leading to legislative decisions that could make our local food system more secure.

The Jefferson County Planning Commission welcomes those participating in the community-led efforts to schedule public presentations regarding their progress as an agenda item during at least one PC meeting each month.

As approved by the Jefferson County Planning Commission on October 5, 2011:



William A. Miller,
Jefferson County Planning Commission Chair

12 OCT 2011
Date